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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 TEL AVIV 000583

SIPDIS

NEA FOR BURNS/SATTERFIELD/DIBBLE;  
NEA/SA/EX FOR RICHE; DEPT FOR DS/IP/NEA;  
DEPT FOR DS/IP/ITA; DRL FOR A/S CRANER;  
NSC FOR ABRAMS/DANIN;  
USAID FOR DCHA, DCHA/FPP

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [KWBG](#) [PTER](#) [ASEC](#) [PHUM](#) [CASC](#) [KPAL](#)

SUBJECT: WB/G SITREP: MILITANTS FIRE 12 MORTAR SHELLS IN  
GAZA STRIP: FEBRUARY 1 (1200 HRS LOCAL)

THIS IS A JOINT MESSAGE FROM CONGEN JERUSALEM AND EMBASSY TEL  
AVIV

**¶1. (SBU) SUMMARY:** In the Gaza Strip, IDF fire reportedly injured one Palestinian in the Rafah refugee camp. According to the IDF, Hamas militants fired 12 mortar shells at various locations throughout the Strip in response to the January 31 shooting of a Palestinian girl in Rafah, an incident for which the IDF denies responsibility. In the West Bank, Palestinian explosive devices injured an IDF soldier near Bethlehem and an Israeli settler near Nablus. Palestinian militants reportedly fired shots at Ganim and Qadim settlements and at IDF vehicles in the Balata refugee camp.  
End Summary.

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Gaza Strip  
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**¶2. (SBU) ATTACKS:**

-- Deaths: Nil

-- Injuries/Shootings: UNRWA reported that IDF fire injured one Palestinian in the Zurrub area of the Rafah refugee camp overnight January 31-February 1.

-- Mortars: The IDF reported that Hamas militants fired 12 mortar shells in locations throughout the Gaza Strip January 31-February 1. Of these, six were fired at Neve Dekalim settlement, four at IDF outposts near Khan Younis, one at Gaddid settlement, and one at Netzarim settlement. These mortars were in retaliation to the fatal shooting of a Palestinian girl in Rafah January 31, an incident for which the IDF denies responsibility. According to the IDF, the girl was killed by celebratory fire from pilgrims returning from the Haj. UNRWA reported, however, that the girl was killed during a period of heavy fire from the IDF observation post at Salah Ed Din.

-- Shootings: The IDF reported that Palestinian militants engaged in one instance of shooting at the IDF outpost near Neve Dekalim settlement and one instance of shooting at Morag settlement January 31.

-- Explosives/Confiscation: The IDF reported that IDF soldiers safely confiscated an explosive device southwest of the Kissufim Crossing January 31.

**¶3. (SBU) BORDER CROSSINGS/CHECKPOINTS**

-- Route Four (Salahadeen Road), the main north-south traffic artery, was open February 1 but closed at Netzarim junction.

-- The Erez Crossing was closed to Palestinians, but open to diplomats and some internationals, February 1.

-- The Erez Industrial Zone was closed February 1.

-- Sufa Crossing was closed for Palestinian workers, but open for the import of aggregates used in construction, February 1.

-- Karni terminal was closed February 1.

-- Rafah Terminal was open for arrivals and departures February 1. Palestinian males between the ages of 16 and 35 were prohibited from crossing.

-- Tel al-Sultan checkpoint was closed, but Toufa checkpoint was open, February 1.

**¶4. (SBU) POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS**

-- According to UNRWA, a large demonstration took place at the UNSCO office January 31 to protest the non-retention of Peter Hansen as ComGen UNRWA.

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**15. (SBU) ATTACKS/SECURITY:**

-- Deaths: Nil

-- Injuries: According to Israeli and Palestinian sources, an IDF soldier was wounded near Bethlehem on January 31 when two explosive devices were hurled at a military outpost near Bethlehem's Rachel's Tomb.

-- Injuries: According to Israeli media, an Israeli settler was wounded on January 31 when a Molotov cocktail hit his car near Migdalim settlement in the Nablus area.

-- Shootings: According to Palestinian newspapers, two shooting incidents were reported in the Jenin area in the direction of Ganim and Qadim settlements on January 31. No injuries have been reported. According to Palestinian sources, a wing of the Al-Aqsa Martyrs, Brigades controlled by Mohammad Abu Rajwan claimed the responsibility for the shootings.

-- Shootings: According to Palestinian sources, shots were fired at IDF vehicles on January 31 in the Balata refugee camp and the village of Kufr Qalil near Nablus. No injuries have been reported.

-- Security Incidents: According to Israeli and Palestinian reports, several Israeli cars were stoned on January 31 on the Husan bypass road near Bethlehem. No injuries have been reported.

-- Security Incidents: According to Palestinian newspapers, the IDF found and defused a roadside charge on Road 60 near Bethlehem on January 31.

-- Arrests: According to Palestinian reports, IDF units arrested one Palestinian in the Balata refugee camp near Nablus on January 31.

**16. (SBU) CLOSURES:**

-- According to Palestinian sources, the IDF is still operating in the village of Saida near Tulkarm on February 1, while imposing a closure around the village.

**17. (SBU) POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS:**

-- According to Palestinian sources, 42 Palestinian security officers will start training in Egypt on February 3. Thirty of those will be Gaza-based, and twelve from the West Bank. The officers belong to the civil police, National Security, and the military intelligence.

-- According to Palestinian newspapers, Abu Mazen concluded his visit to Russia, and will arrive in Turkey on February 1. Abu Mazen named Nabil Shaath, PA Foreign Affairs Minister, as the head of the Russian-Palestinian High Committee. Abu Mazen and the accompanying delegation are scheduled to return to Ramallah on February 2.

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<http://www.state.gov/p/nea/telaviv>

You can also access this site through the State Department's Classified SIPRNET website.

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